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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MORITA, et al.
Filed.: Filed Concurrently Herewith
Title of Invention: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
METHOD, AND PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1-16 and add claims 17-42 as follows:

17. An information processor comprising:

means for detecting that a terminal having a content stored therein is connected to the apparatus itself; and

means for automatically starting up a program which reads contents-related data from the terminal and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, when the terminal is connected to the apparatus.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for detecting, when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to be checked out; and

means for controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content stored in the apparatus itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself.

19. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:

the detecting means detects that a recording medium having contents recorded therein is connected to the apparatus itself; and

the start-up means starts up the program which automatically reads contents-related data from the recording medium and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, when the recording medium having contents recorded therein is connected to the information processor.

20. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the start-up means automatically starts up the program which controls to display an artist name and a music title of the content based on the data.

21. The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for setting whether a content is to be automatically checked out to the terminal;

means for detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the information processor; and

means for controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in the first content from the terminal and check out a second content stored in the apparatus itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting in the setting means when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

means for controlling a display to display a list of data related to the second content which has been automatically checked out.

23. An information processing method comprising steps of:

detecting that a terminal having a content stored therein is connected to an information processor in which the method is effected; and

automatically starting up a program which reads contents-related data from the terminal and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data.

24. The method according to claim 23, further comprising steps of:

detecting, when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the information processor itself, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content recorded in the terminal is to be checked out; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content recorded in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the information processor itself.

25. The method according to claim 23, wherein:

at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium having contents recorded therein is connected to the information processor; and

at the start-up step, the program which automatically reads contents-related data from the recording medium and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, is started up when at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium is connected to the information processor.

26. The method according to claim 23, wherein the start-up step automatically starts up the program which controls to display an artist name and a music title of the content based on the data.

27. The method according to claim 23, further comprising steps of:

setting whether a content is to be automatically checked out to the terminal;

detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the information processor; and

means for controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in the first content from the terminal and check out a second content stored in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting in the setting step when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the information processor itself.

28. The method according to claim 27, further comprising a step of:

controlling a display to display a list of data related to the second content which has been automatically checked out.

29. A program storage medium having stored therein a computer-readable program for use in the above information processing apparatus and method, the program comprising steps of:

detecting that a terminal having a content stored therein is connected to an information processor in which the method is effected; and

automatically starting up a program which reads contents-related data from the terminal and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

30. The program storage medium according to claim 29, the program further comprising steps of:

detecting, when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content recorded in the terminal is to automatically be checked out; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the apparatus itself.

31. The program storage medium according to claim 29, wherein:

at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium having contents recorded therein is connected to the information processor; and

at the start-up step, the program which automatically reads contents-related data from the recording medium and controls the display to provide a display corresponding to the data, is started up when at the detecting step, it is detected that the recording medium is connected to the information processor.

32. An information processor comprising:

means for setting whether a content is to automatically be checked out to a terminal connected to the apparatus itself;

means for detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the apparatus itself; and

means for controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content stored in the apparatus itself to the terminal, on the basis of a setting made by the setting means when the setting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus.

33. The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising means for detecting, when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to automatically be checked out;

when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, the communications controlling means controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal on the basis of the setting information in the terminal.

34. The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising means for a filter setting information detecting means for detecting filtering data intended for use to select a desired content recorded in the terminal when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus;

when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, the communications controlling means controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in the first content from the terminal and check out the second content recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal on the basis of the filter setting information in the terminal.

35. The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a filter setting information detecting means for detecting filtering data intended for use to select a desired content;

when the detecting means detects that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, the communications controlling means controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in the first content from the terminal and check out the second content recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal on the basis of the filtering data.

36. The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the filtering data is decided to select a content at a high rank in a hit chart.

37. An information processing method comprising steps of:

setting whether a content is to automatically be checked out to a terminal connected to an information processor itself in which the method is effected;

detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the information processor itself; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content stored in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of a setting made at the setting step when at the setting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

38. The method according to claim 37, further comprising a step of detecting, when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to automatically be checked out;

when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor, the communications with the terminal being controlled to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content recorded in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

39. The method according to claim 37, wherein when it is detected at the detecting step that the terminal is connected to the apparatus, the communications with the terminal are controlled to automatically check in the first content from the terminal and check out the second content recorded in the apparatus itself to the terminal on the basis of the filtering data.

40. The method according to claim 39, wherein the filtering data is decided to select a content at a high rank in a hit chart.

41. A program storage medium having stored therein a program to be used in an information processing apparatus and method, the program comprising steps of:

setting whether a content is to automatically be checked out to a terminal connected to an information processor itself in which the method is effected;

detecting that a terminal having a first content stored therein is connected to the information processor itself; and

controlling the communications with the terminal to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and to check out a second content stored in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of a setting made at the setting step when at the setting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

42. The program storage medium according to claim 41, further comprising a step of detecting, when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor, setting information recorded in the terminal and indicative of whether a content is to automatically be checked out;

when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor, the communications with the terminal being controlled to automatically check in a first content from the terminal and check out a second content recorded in the information processor itself to the terminal, on the basis of the setting information in the terminal when at the detecting step, it is detected that the terminal is connected to the information processor.

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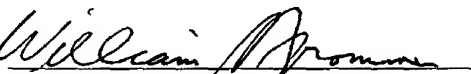
REMARKS

The specification has been amended. Claims 1-16 have been cancelled. Claims 17-42 have been added to the application. All of these amendments reflect the amendments to the International Application made under PCT Article 19. The filing fee has been calculated based upon these new claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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